Timeline From 1801-1900.

By The Daily Mail

(31.Dec.1900).

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Elle-Jai Rock

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100 Milestones in the Century's History.

A brief survey of 100 remarkable incidents in the century's history – 100 milestones which mark the course of the Nations life in the hundred years 1801-1900. the incidents chosen are not necessarily those which excited most attention at any particular time.

1801 | Union of Great Britain and Ireland.

1801 was remarkable for the first meeting of the United Parliaments of Great Britain and Ireland. 100 members became part of the House of Commons, and twenty-eight elected temporal peers and four spiritual peers took their seats in the Lords. Commerce between the two countries was freed from all restrictions, and every trading privilege of the one was thrown open to the other, and taxation proportionately distributed.

1802 | The First Photograph.

The first authentic photograph – or attempt to utilise the action of light for producing pictures – was that of Thomas Wedgwood (son of the famous Potter), in 1802. He called it a "method of copying paintings on glass and making profiles by the agency of light." The sensitive surface which he employed was obtained by impregnating paper or white leather with a solution of nitrate of silver. But forty years elapsed before a solvent for the unchanged chloride of silver was found.

1803 | War With France.

On May 18, 1803, war was declared against France. 70,000 Militia were embodied. An Army of reserve 50,000 strong was raised by ballot to serve for four years. All men between seventeen and fifty-five were enrolled as Volunteers, and soon numbered 300,000. As the standing Army was kept at about 120,000, some 500,000 men were ready for the country's defence.

1804 | Napoleon Crowned.

On November 19, 1804, "Bonaparte, attended by a numerous military escort, followed by an immense train of equipages as brilliant as could be procured, filled with persons of the highest rank, accompanied by the Pope, proceeded through streets strewed with sand to Notre Dame. There his Holiness performed a solemn service, anointed the Emperor with the sacred unction, and placed the crown upon His Majesty's head."

1805 | Battle of Trafalgar.

The Battle of Trafalgar was fought on October 21, 1805. Nelson then defeated the combined fleets of France and Spain, and lost his life in the action. About fifteen minutes after one, when standing on the quarter deck, he received a wound from a musket ball in his left breast, which he at once declared to be mortal. When the enemy struck her colours, Captain Hardy carried him the news, and Nelson, after thanking God for the event, and that he had lived to hear of it, shortly expired. Napoleon, with that courageous economy of truth characteristic of him, summed up Trafalgar in the sentence:

"*The storms occasioned to us the loss of a few ships after a battle imprudently fought.*"

Trafalgar, as a matter of fact, was the most amazing victory won by land or sea through the whole Revolutionary War. It permanently changed the course of history; and it goes far to justify Nelson's magnificently audacious boast.

"*The fleets of England are equal to meet the world in arms.*"

1806 | England Gains Cape Colony.

In 1806, Sir David Baird took Cape Colony for England, and it has ever since remained in our possession. At this time, the limit of the Colony was formed by the Great Fish River, and the line of the mountains south of Bushmanland to the Buffalo River. Its area was 120,000 square miles, and its population 60,000.

1807 | Slavery Abolished in Africa.

The Slave Trade was abolished in Africa in 1807. Wilberforce had "counted a terrible list of doubters," but the question of going into Committee passed the Commons by 283 against 16. On March 25 the Bill received Royal assent. Wilberforce declared that the sole point he had in view was the abolition of the Slave Trade and not the emancipation of Slaves. Wilberforce had laboured 19 years before he secured this victory.

1808 | Napoleon Entered Madrid.

“Canon,” said Napoleon to Escoiquiz, pulling his ear, “tell me whether I ought to lose sight of the fact that the interests of my House and of my Empire demand that the Bourbons shall no longer reign in Spain?” Napoleon did not lose sight of the fact. The King of Spain abdicated in his favour in 1808, and Napoleon soon after entered Madrid, and made his brother Joseph King.

1809 | Death of Sir John Moore.

At the battle of Corunna, Sir John Moore was struck by a cannon ball. But despite his grievous injuries he persistently asked to see the troops engaged. When the French were being defeated he was taken to the rear, but he died before he heard of the victory. No coffin was available, and so they buried him with “his martial cloak around him” at the dead of night.

We thought as we hollowed his narrow bed
And smoothed down his lonely pillow,
That the foe and the stranger would tread over his head,
And we far away on the billow.

1810 | Napoleon Married Maria Louise.

Napoleon, desirous of an heir, divorced Josephine, who was childless, and married on April 1, 1810, the Archduchess Maria Louisa of Austria. She bore him a son, called the King of Rome. On Napoleon’s abdication she was not allowed to follow him into exile.

1811 | The Lunatic King.

The madness of King George III, was precipitated by the death of his favourite daughter, Amelia. The first blow came thus: “He visited her on her deathbed, and she put on his finger a ring, containing her own hair and with the motto: *Remember me when I’m gone*.” The King retired from the bedside a confirmed lunatic, and a Regent was appointed.

1812 | Burning of Moscow.

Napoleon came in sight of Moscow on September 14, 1812. He expected a great array to meet him, but instead he found an empty city. Its people had left en bloc. But they did not mean to leave it as a home for a French Army, and soon it was wrapped in flames. Even the Kremlin, in which Napoleon took shelter, was burned, and the mighty fire, fanned by a terrific wind, lasted five days. From Moscow Napoleon made a most disastrous retreat. Snow filled the hollows and ravines, and “the soldiers by thousands disappeared in the deceitful depths to reappear no more till the next summer revealed their corpses.”

1813 | The Shannon and Chesapeake.

There was a brilliant section between the British ship, Shannon, commanded by Capt. P. V. Broke, and the Chesapeake (Capt. Lawrence) in 1813 in the war between this country and America. Captain Broke’s ship got locked with the Chesapeake. Seeing his men were flinching, the Captain gave orders for boarding, and he himself set the example and leapt into the ship. After a sanguinary conflict of only two minutes the Americans were beaten from every post.

The whole action only lasted 15 minutes. “The Chesapeake was bought by the Admiralty after the fight for £21,314, and six years afterwards she was sold as mere old timber for £500; was broken up, and today stands as a Hampshire flour mill, peacefully grinding English corn; but still on the mill timbers can be seen the marks of the grape and round shot of the Shannon.”

1814 | Napoleon at Elba.

Napoleon, after his abdication, left France for Elba on April 28, 1814, under a salute of 21 guns. “Farewell to Caesar and his fortune,” exclaimed the Russian Commissioner. As he paced the deck Napoleon exclaimed. “That old devil Blucher gave me most trouble. If I had beat him in the evening, there he was again next morning. If I routed him in the morning, he rallied and fought again before night.” Napoleon left Elba again and landed at Cannes on March 1, 1815.

1815 | Battle of Waterloo.

At the Battle of Waterloo in 1815, Green says that the “Prussians pushed forward on Napoleon’s right; their guns swept the road to Charleroi, and Wellington seized the moment for a general advance. From that hour all was lost. Only the Guards stood firm in the wreck of the French Army, and though darkness and exhaustion checked the English in their pursuit of the broken troops as they hurried from the field, the Prussian horse continued the chase through the night. Napoleon himself fled hurriedly to Paris. His second abdication was followed by a triumphal entry of the English and Prussian Armies into the French capital.”

Mr. Fitchett says that only twice during the day did Wellington show any trace of remembering what may be called his personal interest in the fight. Napoleon had called him “a Sepoy General.”

“I will show him today,” he said, just before the battle began, “how a Sepoy General can defend himself.”

At night again he repeatedly leaned back in his chair, rubbing his hands convulsively, and exclaiming aloud, “Thank God. I have met him!” When Wellington read the list of Officers killed hot tears poured down his cheeks.

1816 | Safety Lamp Invented.

Being supplied with specimens of firedamp, Humphrey Davy investigated them in 1815, and found “that firedamp will not explode in tubes or feeders of a certain small diameter. The explosive gas freely entered his lamp and exploded within it.”

In 1816, a testimonial was raised for him by coal owners to show their appreciation of his inventions.

1817 | Waterloo Bridge Completed.

Waterloo Bridge was called by Canova the finest bridge in the world. It cost over a million sterling, and was completed on June 18, 1817, having been commenced in 1811 by John Rennie.

1818 | Death of Warren Hastings.

The trial of Warren Hastings occupied 145 days, extending over seven years, and three months. It cost him £70,000, “and he was left without the means of subsistence.” On August 3, 1818, “he dictated and signed a letter recommending his wife to the protection of the Court of Directors, and on the 22nd he passed away, his last act being to lay a handkerchief over his face lest the last change should distress the women who were watching at his bedside.”

1819 | First Atlantic Liner.

The first steamer to cross the Atlantic was called the Savannah. It belonged to a Mr. Scarlborough, of Savannah, who purchased it while on the stocks, and had it fitted with the necessary engines. The journey took 32 days. The craft was so small that it could not carry sufficient coal for so long a voyage, and for some twelve days it was under sail.

1820 | George IV - King.

Early in 1820, Queen Victoria’s father, the Duke of Kent, died. The record of the day says that he departed this life “though his Royal Highness lost 120 ounces of blood from the arms and by cupping.” A few months after his father King George III died, and George IV., who had been Regent, became King.

1821 | Death of Napoleon.

Napoleon made his will early in 1821, and among his last wishes was that his heart should be sent to the Empress Maria Louisa. On May 4, he bade farewell to the Generals who still shared his captivity, and exclaimed: “I am at peace with mankind.” His last words, it is said, were: “Tete l’armee,” as if he fancied himself on the field of battle. He was buried in St. Helena, but in 1840, his remains were removed, and now lie in the Church of Les Invalides, Paris.

1822 | Drowning of Shelley.

Shelley set sail from Leghorn for Lerici one afternoon in July of 1822. Presently a fog came on, and then wind, rain, and thunder, and in the storm it is supposed that his boat went down. On July 18 Shelley’s body was washed ashore. In one pocket of his jacket was Aeschylus, and in the other Keat’s poems. His body is buried at Rome – his heart at Boscombe.

1823 | Macaulay’s First Essay.

Macaulay began his literary career in 1823, by contributing to “Knight’s Quarterly Magazine.” When his essay on Milton appeared two years later Jeffrey “welcomed it with enthusiasm, saying, ‘The more I think the less I can conceive where you picked up that style!’ and Macaulay at once gained a popularity which was to increase with every subsequent publication.”

1824 | National Gallery Founded.

The National Gallery was started in 1824 by the Government purchase of some pictures belonging to Mr. Angerstein for £57,000. For a while these pictures remained in that gentleman's house in Pall Mall. The pictures included several by Rubens, Hogarth, Wilkie, Claude, and Poussin.

1825 | The First Railway.

The first railway opened was that between Stockton and Darlington, in 1825. It was known as the Quakers' line, as Quakers found the money. "The first train consisted of six wagons loaded with flour and coals, then a covered coach containing the directors and their friends, and then twenty-one coal wagons filled with temporary seats and crammed with passengers. Stephenson had surveyed and made the road, and now drove the engine. In front of the train went a horseman with a red flag. At a favourable part of the road Stephenson called upon the flagman to get out of the way, and put on the speed, working up to twelve miles an hour and then fifteen.

The train reached Darlington in triumph. At first passengers were not thought of, but Stephenson saw no harm in trying for them, and in a short time the first railway carriage was designed by him. It was a sort of six-windowed caravan, with a row of seats along the side and a deal table in the middle. In a few days it was a case of standing room only."

1826 | Lotteries Abolished.

From 1793 to 1824 the Government made an average yearly profit from lotteries of £346,765. One contractor spent in one year £36,000 on advertisements. They were used to raise loans, but through the efforts of Lyttleton and others they were finally prohibited in 1826.

1827 | Who Wrote “Waverly”?

Walter Scott published his famous novel “Waverly,” anonymously on July 7, 1814, and for thirteen years its authorship was kept back from the public. Indeed, Scott put a clause in his agreement with his publisher, under which the publisher would have to pay a penalty of £2,000 if the name of the author was disclosed. In 1827, the secret became generally known.

1828 | Corporation Acts Repealed.

The Corporation and Test Acts “made up a little code of legislation intended to exclude Dissenters from any manner of State or public office, or from being elected as members of any municipal corporation.” On the motion of Lord John Russel, they were abolished in 1828.

1829 | The First Locomotive.

The Rocket, now in the South Kensington Museum, was made in 1829, and was the first high-speed locomotive of the standard modern type. She weighed four and a half tons, and gained the £500 prize for lightness, power, and speed offered by the directors of the Liverpool and Manchester line. The engine for test had to run 70 miles. The Rocket did 35 miles in 3 hours, 12 minutes, an average of 11 miles an hour. The second 35 miles was done at the rate of 18 to 20 miles an hour.

1830 | George IV. and William IV.

George IV. died in 1830. As Walpole says “He was a bad son, a bad husband, a bad father, a bad subject, a bad Monarch, and a bad friend.” His successor, William IV., according to Justin McCarthy, walked about the London streets with his umbrella tucked under his arm, and talked familiarity with everyone he knew.

1831 | First Reform Bill.

1831 was a year of great excitement. Agitation and rioting took place in every part of the country. Demands for reform were insistent, and on March 1, Lord John Russell introduced his famous Reform Bill. It was, however, defeated in the Lords. It proposed that householders in boroughs paying rates for a house of £10, and in counties a copyholder to the value of £10 who was a leaseholder for not less than 21 years, whose annual rent was not less than £50, should become voters at once.

1832 | Reform Bill Passed.

Preferring reform to the creation of new peers, the peers opposition to the Reform Bill gave way, and it was passed in June, 1832. It was “a great revolution, and took a large step towards admitting the whole nation to the labours of Government, and allowed the national life to flow in a fuller tide.”

1833 | First Factory Act.

The first Factory Act was passed in 1833. By it, children under 13 could not work longer than 8 hours a day. Till this time, they had worked 12 and more hours. Young people between thirteen and eighteen were not to work more than 69 hours weekly. Lord Ashley (afterwards Lord Shaftesbury) was to the front in this matter.

1834 | Houses of Parliament Burnt.

Great excitement was caused on Oct. 16 by the burning of the Houses of Parliament. Some of the old wood Exchequer tallies had to be burned, and these were piled too numerously upon one of the fires within the Houses. Considerable warning was given as to the probable result, but no heed was taken, and about six o’clock the whole place was in flames. Happily Westminster Hall was saved. The Law Court were saved by having their roofs torn off.

1835 | Municipal Reform.

1835 saw the Reform of Municipal Corporations. “A measure was passed which rendered municipal government a reality, provided for the proper election of aldermen, abolished the unreasonable privileges of freemen – a class of men who, by the accident of birth, were invested with the Government of the towns.”

1836 | Marriage Reform.

Before 1836, Nonconformists could not be married in their own places of worship and in their own way. The formularies of the Established Church were essential, and, of course, to these the Nonconformists had objection. By the Act of 1836 marriage became a civil contract, and no religious ceremony of any kind was demanded by the law. Nonconformists could now marry in their own Chapels.

1837 | Enters Queen Victoria.

The Queen came to the throne in 1837. “Never was anything like the first impression she produced, or the chorus of praise which is raised about her manner and behaviour.” Greeville declared that the young Queen, who might well be either dazzled or confounded with the grandeur and novelty of her situation,” seems neither the one nor the other, and behaves with a decorum and propriety beyond her years.”

1838 | The Queen's Coronation.

The Queen was crowned in Westminster Abbey on June 29, 1838. Greville says that the different actors in the ceremonial were very imperfect in their parts, and had neglected to rehearse them. The Queen said to Lord John Thynne, "Pray tell me what I am to do, for they don't know."

At the end, when the orb was placed in her hand, she said: "What am I to do with it?"

"Your Majesty is to carry it, if you please, in your hand."

"Am I?" she said. "It is very heavy."

1839 | The People's Charter.

Social conditions at the beginning of the Queen's reign led to the rise of Chartism. 1,200,000 men signed the People's Charter, which was presented to Parliament in 1839, but rejected. The six points of the Charter were Manhood Suffrage, Annual Parliaments, Vote By Ballot, Abolition of Property Qualification, Payment of Members, and Equal Electoral Districts. There was much excitement and alarm at the advocacy of these points, but several of them have now been adopted.

1840 | Penny Postage Established.

The Penny Post was first established in England on January 10, 1840, by Rowland Hill. He found that 1s. 4 ½ d. was charged for taking a letter from London to Edinburgh, whereas the actual cost of conveying it was one-thirty-sixth of a penny. He suggested the penny stamp – "a bit of paper just large enough to bear the stamp, and covered at the back with a glutinous wash."

Penny postage was carried in the Commons by 215 to 113, and without a division in the Lords!

1841 | Newman's "Tract No. 90."

A great sensation was caused in 1841, by the publication of Tract No. 90 of "Tracts for the Times." Its author was John Henry Newman, who was promptly censured by the Vice-Chancellor of Oxford. "The movement of which some important tendencies were formally censured in the condemnation of this tract was one of the most momentous that had stirred the Church of England since the Reformation." In the sequel Newman joined the Roman Catholic Church.

1842 | The Cabul Massacre.

In 1842, over 4,000 men and many women and children began to withdraw from Cabul, safe conduct having been promised them. “When they were within sixteen miles of Jellalabad the number was reduced to six. Of these six, five were killed by straggling marauders on the way. One man alone reached Jellalabad to tell the tale. Literally one man – Dr. Brydon – came out of a moving host which had numbered in all some 16,000 when it set out on its march.” The women and children were kept in captivity, and escaped this terrible massacre.

1843 | Secession of Dr. Chalmers.

A dramatic day for Scotland was that 18th May day in 1843 when 500 Ministers of the Kirk of Scotland, headed by Dr. Chalmers, “went deliberately forth from their positions of comfort and honour, from home and competence, to meet an uncertain and a perilous future, with perhaps poverty and failure,” and formed the Free Church of Scotland. “It grew naturally out of the inevitable struggle between Church and State . . . and its success is his best monument.”

1844 | Mazzini’s Letters.

Mazzini was living in England in 1844, and there was a great outcry when the Government suspected him of making this country the headquarters for a conspiracy against Austria, and opened his letters at the Post Office. Carlyle wrote to the “Times” in protest.

1845 | The Railway Mania.

Parliament granted powers in 1845 for the construction of 2,883 miles of new railways, with a capital of £44,000,000. “For a time it seemed to be a national article of faith that the capacity of the country to absorb new railway schemes and make them profitable was unlimited.”

1846 | Repeal of the Corn Laws.

Sir Robert Peel in 1846 changed his views on the Corn Laws, and in that year Bright and Cobden saw the end of their great agitation. In February, Sir R. Peel announced a fixed duty on corn for three years, and then its entire abolition. He declared that by the gradual removal of protection industry had been promoted, crime diminished, morality improved. He proposed that in February 1849 oats, barley, rye, and wheat should be admitted at a merely nominal duty, and that during the interval there should be a continuation of a sliding scale, falling from 10s., when wheat was under 48s., a quarter, to an invariable duty of 4s., when the price reached 54s.

The second reading of the Bill was moved on March 23, and it passed on March 27. In the debate Disraeli first won a name.

1847 | Chloroform Discovered.

Sir James Simpson discovered chloroform in 1847. In 1895 three quarters of a million doses were made weekly. “Where should we be without anaesthetics?” asked Mr. Lawson Tait, the great Surgeon. “No human being could undergo in a conscious state such operations as I have spoken of. At the head of the list for whom I claim the true credit I place the name of Simpson, the greatest genius our profession has produced for centuries.”

1848 | Louis Philippe in England.

As soon as Louis Philippe left the Tuileries in 1848 the mob gutted it. The French King made his way to the coast, and thence to England. His first lodging was at New Haven, in the Bridge Inn. Later in the year he was sworn in as a Special Constable, when fears were entertained of trouble from the Chartists.

1849 | Queen’s First Visit to Ireland.

The Queen and Prince Consort paid their first visit to Ireland in 1849. The Royal children – the four eldest – were objects of universal admiration and attention. “Oh, Queen, dear,” screamed a stout old lady, “make one of them Prince Patrick, and all Ireland will die for you.”

1850 | First Dover-Calais Cable.

The first submarine telegraph was laid between Dover and Calais in 1850. About thirty miles of copper wire covered with gutta-percha were taken on board a steam tug and wound round a drum. Communication was maintained with the shore where the cable was being laid. The first message sent across by Mr. Brett, the originator of this cable, was to Louis Napoleon.

1851 | The Great Exhibition.

The first Great Exhibition was held in Hyde Park. It was opened by the Queen and Prince Consort on May 1, and closed on October 11. 25,000 people were in the Exhibition on the opening day, and 700,000 lined the route to it from Buckingham Palace. 6,170,000 people in all visited it. Paxton, the designer of the building (now the Crystal Palace) rose, wrote the Queen, “from being a common gardener’s boy.”

1852 | Wellington’s Death.

The Iron Duke, aged eighty-three, died in 1852, at Walmer Castle, while asleep. He was buried in St. Paul’s, and his body was carried thither on a car made from guns taken by himself. So heavy was it, that it several times stuck in the roads. Over 50,000 people saw him lie in state in Chelsea Hospital. Tennyson sang his requiem:-

"O good grey head which all men knew,
O voice from which their omens all men drew,
O iron nerve, to true occasion true;
O fallen at length that tower of strength
Which stood four-square to all the winds that blew."

1853 | Transportation Abolished.

Before 1853 criminals of all grades were liable to be sent across the seas for even slight offences. In 1853, a Bill was brought in which substituted penal servitude for transportation, unless the sentence was for fourteen years or over. In 1857, transportation was altogether abolished.

1854 | Charge of the Light Brigade.

The Charge of the Light Brigade – "O what a charge they made – was an incident in the Crimean War of 1854:-

Into the valley of death
Rode the six hundred."

There were 670 men; 195 only were left mounted; 325 horses were killed; and all in twenty minutes. The brigade lost 12 officers killed and 11 wounded; 147 men were killed and 110 wounded or missing. The whole incident arose out of a mistaken order.

1855 | Fall of Sebastopol.

The Russian General in command at Sebastopol wrote when he and his troops left it:-

"*It is not Sebastopol which we have left to them, but the burning ruins of the town which we ourselves set fire too.*"

The siege had lasted nearly a year, and with the fall of Sebastopol the Crimean War came to an end. It is estimated that the enemy lost 28,190 men killed and wounded; while the allies lost 14,367.

1856 | The V. C. Founded.

To reward the heroes of the Crimean War the Queen established the Order of the Victoria Cross. There were sixty-two of them, and the Queen herself pinned the cross upon each in Hyde Park, which was crowded with spectators. The V. C. is made from guns captured at Sebastopol, and some 500 have been awarded.

1857 | Indian Mutiny.

The terrible Indian Mutiny broke out in 1857. The native soldiers disliked to have their cartridges greased by the fat of animals prohibited by their religion. The foulest deed of the Mutiny was the massacre of Cawnpore, when Nana Sahib slaughtered with terrible cruelty the women and children of the English garrison. “When the house of the massacre was entered, its floors an its walls told with terrible plainness of the scene they had witnessed. . . The floor was strewn with scraps of dresses, women’s faded ragged finery, frilling, underclothing, broken combs, shoes, and tresses of hair.”

1858 | Goodbye to “John Company.”

As a result of the Indian Mutiny, the Government of India was transferred from the East India Company to the Crown in 1858. The Viceroy and Governor-General was made supreme, but he was to be assisted by a Council. Lord Canning became the first Viceroy.

1859 | Volunteers Enrolled.

Volunteer Corps were first formed in 1859, and on June 23 the Queen held a great Volunteer Review in Hyde Park. 18,450 Volunteers passed before her. In the next month, there was a great volunteer shooting match at Wimbledon, when the Queen gave a prize of £250. In the same year, 20,000 Volunteers were reviewed by the Queen at Edinburgh.

1860 | Shall the Paper Duty Go?

Till 1861 every newspaper issued had to pay a penny tax and sixpence on each advertisement. In that year, Mr. Gladstone abolished the paper tax, and in this way became the father of the present great output of newspapers. There was a great opposition to the repeal of duty, and the House of Lords declared that to make paper cheap would flood the country with papers spreading anarchy and profligacy. Just before Mr. Gladstone rose to make his statement on the Paper Duty, a note was handed to Lord Palmerston from Lord Derby.

It ran: “My dear Pam, - What is to be the great proposal tonight? Is it to be Tea and Turn Out?”

Palmerston replied: “My dear Derby, - It is not Tea and Turn Out. It is to be Paper and Stationary.”

The first proposal to repeal the Paper Duty was made in 1860, but so much opposition arose that its abolition was delayed a year.

1861 | American Civil War.

Civil War broke out in the United States in 1861, the chief point at issue being that of Slavery. A Southern Confederation was formed, and Jeff Davis became its President.

“Mr. Lincoln announced that he had no intention to interfere with the institution of Slavery where it existed, but that no State could lawfully get out of the Union.”

2,688,500 men were enrolled on the side of the Union, and of these 275,000 were killed or died of wounds, while probably as many died on the other side.

1862 | Escape of the Alabama.

The Alabama was a privateer, built on the Mersey. She was built for the Southern States, and so successful was she that she captured nearly 70 vessels belonging to the Northern States. She was, however, sunk near Cherbourg. The English Government denied any responsibility for the damage done by the Alabama, but expressed a willingness to arbitrate on the matter. The award went against England, who had to pay about 3 ¼ million sterling.

1863 | Marriage of Prince of Wales.

The Prince of Wales married Alexandra, the daughter of the King of Denmark, in 1863. A tremendous reception was given to the Princess as she passed through London. The ceremony took place on March 10 in the Chapel Royal, Windsor. The Queen, who was in mourning, took no part in the ceremony, but watched it from the Royal Closet. Parliament gave the Prince £50,000 a year, in addition to his receipts from the Duchy of Cornwall. £10,000 was settled on the Princess. £30,000 a year was to be settled on the Princess if she survived the Prince.

1864 | Garibaldi in London.

“In the year 1864, Garibaldi came on a visit to England, and was received,” says Justin McCarthy, “in London with an outburst of enthusiasm the like of which had not been seen since Kossuth first passed down Cheapside. . . The peerage rushed at Garibaldi. He was beset by Dukes, mobbed by Countesses.

1865 | Assassination of Lincoln.

President Lincoln on April 14 went to Ford’s Theatre in Washington. During a pause in the play an assassin entered his box and discharged a pistol at his head. Immediately the President fell to the floor insensible, and died early next morning. The assassin leaped from the box upon the stage, brandished a large knife, and escaped from the rear. – Palmerston and Cobden also died in 1865.

1866 | Atlantic Cable Laid.

An electric telegraph was successfully laid across the Atlantic Ocean in 1866. The Great Eastern carried and paid out the cable from Valentia to Newfoundland, and having successfully done this, it recovered a cable which had been lost in 1865. Then for the first time in the world’s history there ran along the bottom of the ocean messages and greetings from the Queen to the President.

1867 | New Reform Act.

The Reform Bill of 1867 was described by Lord Derby as a leap in the dark. Under Mr. Gladstone's criticisms it was entirely changed. It abolished compound householders, admitted lodgers to the franchise, reduced the county franchise, and made a redistribution of seats.

1868 | Nation Purchases the Telegraphs.

In 1868, it was decided to buy out the telegraph companies, and so to make the communication by telegraphy a State monopoly. In 1869, the Marquis of Hartington brought in the Bill. The cost of the transfer was £6,750,000. The annual revenue was put at £673,838, and the expenditures at £359,454 – profit, £314,354.

1869 | Irish Church Disestablished.

Mr. Gladstone, in a three hours speech, moved the Disestablishment of the Irish Church in 1869. It was to take effect on January 1, 1871. The property of the Church was valued at £670,500 per annum, and, if sold, would realise £16,000,000. After all claims were met, a surplus of £7,000,000 was expected. The yearly revenue was to be devoted to lunatic and idiot asylums, institutions for the blind and mutes, reformatories, and infirmaries.

1870 | School Boards Established.

Mr. Forster introduced his Elementary Education Bill in 1870. Its object was to establish School Boards with power to compel children from five to twelve to attend their schools. Existing schools were for the most part to receive Government grants if found efficient.

1871 | Purchase in Army Abolished.

1871 saw the abolition of the purchase of officers' commissions in the Army, and the substitution of promotion by merit. The House of Commons was in favour of the change. Mr. Gladstone did not wait for the Lords' opinion, but advised the Queen to abolish purchase by Royal Warrant, as purchase had hitherto been permitted by that method.

1872 | Secret Voting Instituted.

In 1872, open or public voting in the elections for the House of Commons was the rule. In future, it was to be secret, or by ballot. "The objection to the open vote was that in a vast number of instances the voter could not safely vote according to his conscience and his convictions." The Bill passed the Commons in 1871, and the Lords in 1872.

1873 | Death of Livingstone.

The great explorer and missionary David Livingstone died on May 1, 1873, but the news did not reach England till the next year. In the heart of Africa, to which he had given his life, alone and on his knees, the traveller about whom all England was thinking yielded up his spirit. His body was brought to England by his faithful black servants, and lies in Westminster Abbey.

1874 | The Claimant Sentenced.

The claimant to the Tichborne Baronetcy and estates, worth £24,000 a year, was sentenced in 1874 to penal servitude for fourteen years. His was the longest trial on record, and the report of it occupies many record, and the report of it occupies many volumes. The law proceedings are said to have cost the estate £92,000. The Attorney General spoke 26 days in the Chancery suit.

1875 | Suez, Canal Shares Purchased.

Messrs. Rothschild were authorised by the Government in 1875 to buy for £4,080,000 the Khedive's shares (176,602) in the Suez Canal. Their present value is £24,312,000, and the yearly receipts from them amount to over £800,000.

1876 | Bulgarian Atrocities.

The Turkish atrocities in Bulgaria led Mr. Gladstone to publish his famous pamphlet on “Bulgarian Horrors and the Eastern Question.” He followed this up by a speech at Blackheath, which was called the most eloquent and impassioned of his political orations. He declared that the massacre of Glencoe, the atrocities of Badajoz, and the recent revolt in Jamaica, though they formed a dark page in history, would not, even if concentrated into a single point and a single spot, be worthy “to appear upon one of the pages that will hereafter consign to everlasting infamy the proceedings of the Turks in Bulgaria.”

1877 | Fall of Plevna.

Russia declared war against Turkey in 1877. Plevna was fortified by the Turks and for a long while the Russians attack was repulsed, though the Russians numbered 90,000. At last, Osman Pasha tried to cut his way out, but had to surrender. When the Grand Duke Nicholas met him he declared that the siege was “one of the most splendid military events in history.”

1878 | Berlin Conference.

When Russia dictated terms to Turkey in 1878 Disraeli insisted that the terms should not stand till they had been reversed at a European conference. England applauded and admired. At the Berlin Conference, England was represented by Disraeli and Lord Salisbury, and won a diplomatic victory. War was avoided, and Disraeli returned, “bringing peace with honour.”

1879 | Zulu War.

15,000 Zulu's surprised and attacked the English camp at Isandula in the Zulu War of 1879, and 837 British soldiers were killed. Lieut. Melville and Coghill, however, saved the colours. Lieut. Chard and Bromhead successfully defended Rorke's Drift. Sir Garnet Wolseley defeated Cetewayo at Ulundi. In this war the Prince Imperial was killed.

1880 | Mr. Bradlaugh Affirms.

Mr. Bradlaugh, M. P., presented himself in the House, and claimed exemption from taking the oath, preferring to make an affirmation. The question was referred to the House, which refused to allow the affirmation. Then Mr. Bradlaugh exclaimed: "The order of the House is against the law and I positively refuse to obey it." He was ordered into custody, but ultimately allowed to affirm – a special enabling resolution being passed.

1881 | Majuba Hill.

Sir. George Colley had 554 men on Majuba Hill on February 27, 1881, and was waiting for Sir Evelyn Wood to bring up reinforcements. A storming party pf 200 Boers took the hill, their approach being covered by an accurate and incessant fire. Colley himself was killed, and the British lost 92 killed and 134 wounded, while the Boer loss was one killed and five wounded.

1882 | Phoenix Park Murder.

On May 6 Lord Frederick Cavendish, after attending the installation of Earl Spencer, took a car for the Chief Secretary's lodge. Overtaking Mr. Burke, a permanent Castle official, Lord Frederick dismissed his car and walked on with him through Phoenix Park. Two men came towards them. One gripped Mr. Burkke by the waist and stabbed him in the back, and as Lord Frederick defended him with an umbrella he received a fatal thrust also.

1883 | The Mahdi's Appearance.

In 1883, the Egyptian Government sent an Army of about 11,000 men, under Colonel Hicks, to restore the Khedive's authority in the Equatorial Provinces. On November 1, the force was attacked, and on the fourth day the whole of it was annihilated. The insurrection spread, and the Khedive, under British advice, decided not to reconquer the lost Sudan Provinces.

1884 | Gordon Goes to the Sudan.

On Mr. Stead's suggestion, Gordon was sent to Khartum to restore the ancient families whose territories had been seized by the Egyptian authorities to their former power, and so extricate the Egyptian garrisons and civil employees, with their families, and remove them to Lower Egypt. On arrival, he found the country less disturbed than he expected, and felt that he could not leave till some form of Government had been settled upon.

1885 | Fall of Khartum.

The siege of Khartum began on March 13, 1884. It fell on January 26, 1885, and Gordon was killed. Two of the last entries in his diary are these:- “All that is absolutely necessary is for fifty of the expeditionary force to get on board a steamer and let their presence be felt.”

“If the expeditionary force does not come in ten days the town may fall; and I have done my best for the honour of our country. Good-bye.”

The siege lasted 317 days, and after the garrison and townsfolk had endured extreme privations for several weeks. Gordon was shot down near the palace, and 4,000 people were butchered.

1886| Irish Home Rule Bill.

Probably there was never such a scene of anxious expectation in the modern history of Parliament as when Mr. Gladstone introduced his first Home Rule Bill. Only 400 M. P.’s out of 670 can find seats in the House and though seventy or eighty additional seats were provided, they did not suffice to meet the demand for seats. On the second reading of the Bill Ministers were in a minority of thirty.

“I believe,” said Mr. Gladstone, “that what binds me to political life is justice to Ireland, and not only to political but physical life.”

1887 | The Queen's Jubilee.

The fiftieth anniversary of the Queen's accession was kept throughout the Empire with extraordinary enthusiasm. On June 21 the Queen went to Westminster Abbey to a thanksgiving service, accompanied by a number of European Monarchs, Princes, and other distinguished persons. The most conspicuous outward commemoration was the erection of the Imperial Institute.

1888 | Creation of County Councils.

Mr. Ritchie, as President of the Local Government Board, succeeded in 1888, in the formation of county councils. The levying of county rates, the maintenance of roads, bridges, asylums, the conduct of registrations, and nearly all the duties of members of Quarter Sessions were transferred to purely elective councils chosen by the ratepayers. London was constituted a county with a council.

1889 | Death of John Bright.

John Bright died in 1889. Lord Hartington described him as one of "the noblest figures that we have ever known in Parliament." He had no regular Physician; but Mr. Gladstone was always urging him to see Sir Andrew Clark. He did so when too late. Browning also died in 1889.

1890 | Exit Bismarck.

Bismarck resigned in 1890. “Switzerland without the Arps – that is what Germany seems without Bismarck.”

So wrote Mr. Stead at the time. “Nor have we for one moment for nearly thirty years ceased to hear the steady footfall of Bismarck, sentinel first of Prussia, then of Germany, and afterwards of Europe, as he paced his weariless round, keeping watch and ward over the affairs entrusted to his care.”

1891 | Free Education.

From September 1, 1891, when Mr. Goschen was Chancellor of the Exchequer, primary education became free in England. The immediate cost of remitting school fees was estimated at £2,000,000. Ten shillings per head on all the elementary scholars in schools between the ages of 3 and 15 was granted.

1892 | Four Notable Deaths.

1892 was an influenza year, and notable for the death of four distinguished men. First, of the Duke of Clarence, heir to the throne; then of Cardinal Manning, the great Roman Catholic prelate; then of Charles Spurgeon, the mighty Preacher; and then of Lord Tennyson, the Poet Laureate.

1893 | Home Rule Rejected.

Mr. Gladstone was returned to power in 1892 with a majority of 40. On February 13, 1893, he introduced a second Home Rule Bill, which passed its second reading by 347 to 304 votes. It was forced through Committee by means of the closure, but was thrown out by the Lords, the voting being 419 to 14.

1894 | Gladstone Retires.

The “Pall Mall Gazette” made a newspaper scoop in 1894 by first announcing Gladstone’s retirement. At his last Cabinet Council the old man exclaimed to his colleagues: “God bless you all.” This was said “with all the fervour of a mind accustomed to give to every word a full value,” and greatly moved those who heard it. On February 24, the Queen sent for Lord Rosebery.

1895 | Jameson’s Raid.

On December 26, 1895, Dr. Jameson, the Administrator of Rhodesia, crossed the Transvaal border with 500 men of the Chartered Company’s Mounted Police, who had gathered at Mafeking to support the Uitlanders of Johannesburg. The Boers surrounded them, and on January 2, 1896, the force surrendered. Dr. Jameson and five officers were subsequently sentenced in England.

1896 | Rosebery Resigns.

Lord Rosebery in 1896 resigned the Liberal leadership. Writing to the chief Liberal Whip, he said: “I find myself in apparent difference with a considerable mass of the Liberal Party on the Eastern Question, and in some conflict of opinion with Mr. Gladstone. . . I consequently beg to notify to you that the leadership of the party, so far as I am concerned, is vacant, and that I resume my liberty of action.”

1897 | The Diamond Jubilee.

The Queen celebrated her Diamond Jubilee – the 60th year of her reign – in 1897. Amid scenes of tremendous enthusiasm and excitement she went to St. Paul’s Cathedral on June 22 to a thanksgiving service, held on the Cathedral steps. She was accompanied by an escort of Princes and representatives of foreign powers, by the Colonial Premiers, and representatives of the Colonial Troops. Before elaving Buckingham Palace she transmitted throughout the Empire the message: “From my heart, I thank my beloved people. May God bless them.”

1898 | Gladstone Died.

Gladstone died on May 19, 1898, at five o’clock in the morning. Mrs. Gladstone was with him to the end, and held his hand in hers. The last word which Mr. Gladstone was heard to say was “Amen,” in response to a prayer which the Rev. Stephen Gladstone was reading by his bedside.

Before that he had said several times: “Kindness, kindness, kindness – everywhere.”
His death provoked universal regret, and he was buried in Westminster Abbey.

1899 | Transvaal War Begins.

On October 11-12, 1899, the Boers crossed the Natal border, and began the war with Great Britain which was not ended when the century closed. Mafeking, Kimberley, and Ladysmith were besieged. Battles were fought at Elands Laagte, Farquhar’s Farm, and Nicholson’s Nek, at Belmont, Graspan, and Modder River. Lord Methuen was repulsed at Magersfontein and Sir Redvers Buller at Colenso, and then Lord Roberts was appointed Commander-in-Chief (December, 10), with Lord Kitchener as Chief of Staff.

1900 | Transvaal Annexed.

1900 was a year of war. The three besieged town were relieved. The Orange Free State was annexed, and became the Orange River Colony. On June 5 Lord Roberts entered Pretoria, and the Transvaal was annexed on September 1. These annexations made an addition of 167,000 square miles to the Empire, while the population was about one million. Mr. Kruger sailed for Europe in October. In December, Lord Roberts handed over the control of the war to Lord Kitchener, and returned to England.

Cardiff Bigger Than London!

Some possibilities of the Twentieth Century.

If the population increases during the twentieth century at the same rate as during the nineteenth century, in the year 2000 A. D. Cardiff will be bigger than London. The following table of population at the beginning and end of the nineteenth century, with the estimated population in the year 2000 A. D. shows in an interesting manner how the big towns will rival each other. For instance, Birkenhead will be nearly as large as London, and Croydon will not be much behind Birmingham, and other comparisons are equally striking. Of course, in making the calculations all fractions have been discarded.

Town	Population in 1800	Population in 1900	Possible Population in 2000 (if the same rate of increase is maintained).
Birkenhead	810	117,000	16,848,000
Birmingham	73,600	519,000	3,633,000
Blackburn	11,500	133,000	1,463,000
Bolton	17,400	115,000	690,000
Brighton	9,000	124,000	1,612,000
Bristol	61,100	324,000	1,620,000
Burnley	4,800	100,000	2,000,000
Cardiff	1,870	194,000	20,758,000
Croydon	5,700	132,000	3,036,000
Derby	21,000	107,000	535,000
Edinburgh	82,500	256,000	768,000
Gateshead	8,500	109,000	1,308,000
Glasgow	77,300	588,000	4,116,000
Hull	22,100	238,000	2,380,000
Leeds	53,100	431,000	3,448,000
Leicester	17,000	219,000	2,380,000
Liverpool	77,700	668,000	5,344,000
London	958,000	4,443,000	17,772,000
Manchester	94,000	505,000	2,525,000
Newcastle	28,000	234,000	1,862,000
Norwich	37,000	114,000	342,000
Nottingham	28,800	242,000	1,936,000

Oldham	12,000	153,000	1,836,000
Plymouth	16,000	106,000	636,000
Preston	11,800	118,000	1,180,000
Sheffield	45,200	365,000	2,920,000
Sunderland	24,400	147,000	882,000
Swansea	6,000	105,000	2,550,000
Wolverhampton	12,500	96,000	672,000

Appendix: Related Links.

Explore the Original.

This transcription is based on two original physical copies of the *Daily Mail*, dated 31 December 1900. One is printed in **gold ink**, in relatively clean condition; the other is a **blank ink** version with some wear and damage. Both are authentic historical newspapers and have been used as references in preparation for this reproduction.

While high-resolution scans of these specific copies are not currently available online via my Archive.org account (*LivingEchoesUK*), readers can explore related images, archival listings, and commentary through the following sources:

Digital & Archival Resources:

- **Daily Mail:** How Your Mystic Mail Predicted Mobile Phones for the Workers and the Building of the Channel Tunnel More than 100 Years Ago, by *David Wilkes*. 4, Aug. 2011. (Image available) https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2021936/How-Daily-Mail-predicted-mobile-phones-Channel-Tunnel.html
- **Facebook: Daily Mail:** Here's the front page from December 31, 1900 of the Daily Mail's 'Golden Extra' historic souvenir edition printed in gold ink. 17, Sept. 2012. (Image available) https://www.facebook.com/DailyMail/photos/p.416830678376686/416830678376686/
- **King's Cliffe Heritage:** 'Golden' Daily Mail, 31st Dec 1900, top front page. (Image Available) https://kingscliffeheritage.org/catalogue_item/golden-daily-mail-31st-dec-1900-top-front-page

- **Milford History:** Daily Mail. Golden Extra edition to commemorate the dawn of the Twentieth Century 31 December 1900.
(No Image Available)
https://www.milfordhistory.org.uk/content/catalogue_item/daily-mail

- **Science Music Collection:** The Daily Mail, Monday 31 December 1900.
(No Image Available)
https://collection.sciencemuseumgroup.org.uk/documents/aa110017261/the-daily-mail-monday-31-december-1900

- **Discovery | National Archives:** "The British Press" and "The Golden Daily Mail" newspapers.
(No Image Available)
https://discovery.nationalarchives.gov.uk/details/r/ad76a3bd-6dab-41e7-ae89-5f2636c84dcf

- **Bodleian:** Daily Mail Historical Archive 1896-2004, by *iholowaty*. 16, Feb. 2018.
(No Image Available)
https://blogs.bodleian.ox.ac.uk/history/2018/02/16/new-daily-mail-historical-archive-1896-2004/

- **Yale Library:** Daily Mail. Golden Extra. To Commemorate the Dawn of the Twentieth Century. Monday, December 31, 1900.
(No Image Available)
https://search.library.yale.edu/catalog/9919135893408651

Archives Under Paywalls:

- **Worth Point:** Golden Extra—Daily Mail Dec. 31st 1900 {RARE} – Sign in to see more details.
  (Image available)
  https://www.worthpoint.com/worthopedia/golden-extra-daily-mail-dec-31st-1900-453847919

- **The British Newspaper Archive:** Sign up to see archive.
  (No Image Available)
  https://www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk/

- **The Sale Room:** December 1900 Gold Print "Golden Extra" Millennium Edition Daily Mail. Auction date over on 20 September 2022.
  (Image Available)
  https://www.the-saleroom.com/en-gb/auction-catalogues/drewery-and-wheeldon/catalogue-id-drewer10009/lot-8678712b-b03f-4148-8a46-af1300ec48c7

- **Ebay:** Daily Mail Golden Extra December 31, 1900 (AB). SOLD on 16 June, 2025. *Devon_Collectables.*
  (Image Available)
  https://www.ebay.co.uk/itm/156933068211